

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 17, 2023

Everyone goes to Heaven

Recently, I was speaking with a woman from Nigeria who has lived in the United States for over a decade. While mentioning a funeral service I conducted the day before, I said, "In all my 61 years I have never been to the funeral of a lost person." She looked at me (perhaps not understanding I was pointing out an absurdity) and said, "Yes, I've noticed that everyone in America goes to Heaven." "Is it not that way in Nigeria?" I asked. "No," she said, "In Nigeria many people do not go to Heaven."

Of course, neither of us believed these statements represented the actual truth. It's just that this is what is presented as being true for every departed soul. I heard a minister at the service of a lady who, though baptized as a child, had nothing to do with God her entire life and died due to continual drug and alcohol abuse. "The way she lived lets us know she was not trusting in works for salvation, but in Christ alone," the minister said as he assured those present of her acceptance into God's eternal glory.

A few years ago, my dad, Leroy Surface, preached the funeral of a man who openly rejected any acknowledgement of Jesus Christ. He was a

hardworking man but would get drunk every evening and eventually died of issues brought on by his alcoholism. Before my dad spoke, a woman got up and told the congregation God had spoken to her that this man was now in Heaven. When my dad stood to speak, he told the congregation. "This woman has the hope that this man is in Heaven, but I cannot offer you that hope. I will not tell you that you can live like this man lived and still be accepted by God. If you do, you will be lost." The woman was very angry with my dad, but his main concern was the souls of those who heard his words that day. The woman's brother was at the service and had just the day before been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. He also had lived his life ignoring Jesus Christ but that day he turned to the Lord and was saved. A few months later he died. This man would have been eternally damned if someone had not stood against the fallacy of those who assure the people they could live in sin and still go to Heaven.

The problem is far worse in the church house. It seems anyone who attends, watches, supports, or even likes a Christian church or ministry is automatically guaranteed Heaven. One worldwide ministry proclaims that a person can be in the act of adultery when the Lord returns, but "if their faith is in the cross" (which is that particular ministry's motto and message), they will be received by God. They simply ignore the Apostle Paul's words which say, "***Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor***

drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9.

Every person, pastor and minister needs to understand this one thing. A person can attend your or my church for decades, but if the nature of sin has not been washed from their heart by the blood of Christ, all our preaching, teaching, compassion, love, encouragement, patience, and counseling has profited them nothing. They are dying in their sins John 8:24 and will be lost! And if we mislead them concerning this issue, we are partners in damning their soul! Just because they like us does not mean they know God.

Compassion that costs a person their soul is not compassion at all.